

DISCUSSION OF REGULATORY REFORM BILL IN GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

(Mr. FAZIO of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I know we have been able to reach agreement apparently on this rule and I know people would like to have no further votes so we can move on. It is after all Friday. But I am told by members of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight that they have run into a rather difficult problem within their committee. They have been told by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER], the chairman, that they have to put out the regulatory reform bill this afternoon or waive their rights to a 3-day layover if it were to be taken up on Monday.

I think on behalf of the minority, we find that a rather difficult choice to have to make, one that really truncates our ability to have full debate and full consideration of this very important legislation on regulatory relief.

I am wondering if we could hear from those on the majority side about how we could accommodate those concerns. We understand the schedule you are trying to keep, but this is one of the most important bills to come out of that committee in this session. Perhaps the majority leader may wish to respond or the majority whip. I am not sure. I know the majority whip has a great interest in this bill.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FAZIO of California. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I understand the gentleman's concern and as we have during this entire process ever since January 4, we have been diligently trying to, and have protected the rights of the minority. We are running into scheduling problems. We are trying to get this bill out. We do not want to limit any kind of opportunities for Members to offer amendments. But as we have seen on other bills and we feel that at least on this particular bill that there are an inordinate number of amendments to the moratorium bill, a moratorium bill that gives the President the right to actually exempt regulations.

Mr. FAZIO of California. If the gentleman would allow me to reclaim my time, the question of what is an inordinate amount is often in the eye of the beholder.

Mr. DELAY. That is true. And the majority beholder thinks that there are a lot of amendments that really have nothing to do with the bill and could be construed as being a little dilatory. We are just trying to accommodate the minority in trying to say, look, we will go through the whole process and allow you to offer all amendments and keep the process open, but we would appreciate you

working with us and maybe, in order to accommodate the schedule and not be here late at night and through weekends, be able to ask the minority if laying the bill out for the 3 days could be accommodated.

Mr. FAZIO of California. If the gentleman would allow me to continue, the Members I think are already expecting to spend Saturdays here in March. That word is all over the institution, so we all know we are running up against deadlines. But we cannot let those deadlines get in the way of due deliberation. To say that that bill has to be put out today I think really stretches.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FAZIO of California. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DELAY. We want due deliberation, but as the gentleman knows, from the time a bill gets out of committee to the time it gets to the floor, it could be 10 days in order to protect the minority's right of allowing a bill to sit around for 3 days for comments before it gets to rules, and then after rules it lays for 3 days before it can come to the floor. We are just saying that maybe we could do a little negotiating here and the committee could deliberate and take all amendments if the minority would only allow it to lay out 2 days.

□ 1400

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLILEY). Perhaps the distinguished gentleman from California and the majority whip might retire and negotiate.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, if we could proceed for ½ minute, it would seem to me if the leadership would proceed to communicate with our leadership about how we are going to handle this bill in committee, to give our members adequate time to offer amendments that are in fundamental ways important to what is one of the most significant bills we are going to deal with in the first 100 days, let alone this Congress, then I think perhaps we could continue in the commodious way we have been. I am sorry to say that we may have to have votes on this noncontroversial rule if we do not have that kind of a dialog.

Mr. DELAY. If the gentleman will yield briefly, I am looking forward to negotiating with the gentleman. We just thought, maybe wrongly, that the chairman of the committee and the ranking member could do that kind of negotiations for the committee, but if it takes the leadership level of negotiations we are happy to do it.

Mr. FAZIO of California. I think it may have been elevated.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FRISA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 117, final passage of the prison construction legislation, I was unavoidably absent.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 728, LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANTS

Ms. PRYCE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-27) on the resolution (H. Res. 79) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 728) to control crime by providing law enforcement block grants, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

CRIMINAL ALIEN DEPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 69 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 69

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 668) to control crime by further streamlining deportation of criminal aliens. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with section 302(f) or section 303(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in section 2 of this resolution. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute for failure to comply with clause 5(a) of rule XXI are waived. Each section of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as modified, shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as modified. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to reconsider with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee